A Ṇ Ḍ I K Ā .

Aṇḍaka or Aṇḍikā, literally means a tiny egg or seed. It is however called as weight in the work of medicine. It is referred to there earliest in the Charaka-Saṁhitā as is said to be equivalent to 4 Yavas (barleys) and one-fourth of a Māshaka.[1] The same is said about it in the Ashṭāṅga-hṛidaya, which is dated to the ninth Century A.D. This means that Aṇḍikā was a very small weight.

In the Brihaspati and Kātyāyana Smritis which are dated in Circa 500 and 600 A.D. by Kane, it is used as synonymous for Kārshāpaṇa and four of it made a Dhānakā.[2] This shows that Aṇḍikā, as a coin, was of a quite heavy weight; but this term as coin, is not known else where.

---

1. धान्यमाष-द्वयं यव:,अण्डिका ते तु चत्वारस्त श्वस्तु माषक: ।

Charaka-Saṁhitā (N.S.P. ed.),p.675.

2. B.S. No.45, p.231.